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To R10 Press Team, Richard Parkin, Sheila Eckman, Phil North, Jeff Frithsen, Palmer Hough, Dennis McLerran, Michelle Pirzadeh, Bob Sussman, Alisha Johnson, Kate Kelly, Jeff Philip, Dianne Soderlund, Kathleen Deener, Tami Fordham, Rachel Fertik, Cara Steiner-Riley, Michael Szerlog, Bill Dunbar, Alisha Johnson

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Subject Bob Waldrop in The Hill's Congress blog: Pebble Mine would jeopardize our livelihood

<http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/energy-a-environment/244155-pebble-mine-would-jeopardize-our-livelihood>

Pebble Mine would jeopardize our livelihood

By Bob Waldrop, Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association - 08/17/12 01:20 PM ET

We read with interest your story titled, [“Industry, GOP fear power-grab by EPA in Alaska mine decision,”](#) consists of 1,800 commercial fishing businesses based in Bristol Bay, Alaska – ground zero for impacts from the mine that your readers may find interesting.

Our commercial fishery has operated sustainably for 130 years, and the people of this region have harvested salmon from this legendary wild salmon resource supports more than 4,000 full-time-equivalent jobs, including those of commercial processors and sport fishing guides, and can do so forever due to good science and common sense. Together, the commercial and sport fishing industries are all jeopardized by the Pebble Mine, which would provide far fewer jobs (1,000 total) – and those only for a few years.

According to mining company information, the mine complex would occupy up to 54 square miles and would have to store toxic mine waste, in perpetuity, in an area noted for its surface-level water table and earthquakes.

Independent scientists who just evaluated EPA's report suggest that reductions in the commercial catch of salmon are not mitigation possible for the proposed Pebble mine. Risking our sustainable jobs for their short-term jobs is unfair.

It is also curious that in your story, Representatives Issa (R-Calif.) and Broun (R-Ga.) suggest that the EPA examination is a federal overreach. In truth, EPA analyzed our watershed at the request of Alaska Native tribes, commercial fishermen, and sport fishing guides. Even more to the point, most of Bristol Bay's salmon bearing waters are navigable waters of the United States. Commercial fishing quality of these waters in 1972. The fact is, EPA would be derelict in their duties if they did not engage in the management of these waters.

Despite what its proponents suggest or ask us to believe, opposition to the Pebble Mine is not remotely limited to sport fishing waters and our thriving industry enjoy the support of more than 700 businesses, the National Council of Churches, and the majority of ordinary Alaskans. Prominent Alaskan Republican Rick Halford laid out his case against the mine. North Carolina Republican Robin Hayes.

Good American jobs are not an environmental or a partisan issue, they are a business issue. And Pebble is bad business.

Waldrop is executive director of the Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association

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